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Resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Council on 22 July 2015

[on the recommendation of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (E/2015/15/Add.2)]

2015/31. Establishment of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management

The Economic and Social Council,

Noting the adoption of resolution 71/11 by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific at its seventy-first session, held in Bangkok from 25 to 29 May 2015,

Endorses the establishment of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management, as set out in resolution 71/11 and the annex thereto, which are annexed to the present resolution.

54th plenary meeting
22 July 2015

Annex

Resolution 71/11

Establishment of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling its resolution 67/4 of 25 May 2011 and its decision taken therein to initiate the process for the establishment of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management (the Centre) in the Islamic Republic of Iran, and in which it invited all members and associate members to participate actively in the process of developing the programmes of the Centre and to support the Centre's activities and requested the Executive Secretary to support the process for the establishment of the Centre and to include in the secretariat's evaluation plan an evaluation of the activities, the need for, and benefit of, establishing the Centre as a subsidiary body of the Commission for the development of disaster information management,

Recalling also its resolutions 69/12 of 1 May 2013 on enhancing regional cooperation for building resilience to disasters in Asia and the Pacific, 70/2 of 23 May

Please recycle

2014 on disaster-related statistics in Asia and the Pacific and 70/13 of 8 August 2014 on regional cooperation for building resilience to disasters in Asia and the Pacific,

Remembering the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want",[1] in particular the outcomes related to disaster risk reduction and the role of the regional commissions in supporting member States and the development agenda,

Reaffirming the Yogyakarta Declaration on Disaster Risk Reduction in Asia and the Pacific 2012 adopted at the Fifth Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, held in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, from 22 to 25 October 2012, which called on disaster risk reduction stakeholders, among other things, to enhance and support regional cooperation mechanisms and centres on disaster information management,

Reiterating the importance of the Sixth Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, held in Bangkok from 22 to 26 June 2014, and reaffirming the Bangkok Declaration on Disaster Risk Reduction in Asia and the Pacific 2014,[2] which called on Governments and other stakeholders, including the United Nations system, to support the implementation of the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction, in particular the Asia-Pacific regional post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction implementation plan and the priority actions stated in the Bangkok Declaration,

Bearing in mind the outcome document of the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, held in Sendai, Japan, from 14 to 18 March 2015, and the adoption of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030,[3] in particular its seventh global target, which states "substantially increase the availability of and access to multi-hazard early warning systems and disaster risk information and assessments to the people by 2030",

Recognizing the important contribution of disaster information management in disaster risk reduction and building resilience to disasters, as well as to inclusive and sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific,

Emphasizing the significance of giving disaster risk reduction due consideration in the post-2015 development agenda, expected to be adopted at the United Nations summit in September 2015,

Recognizing the demand for disaster information services in the Asia-Pacific region, as well as the request for promotion of regional cooperation mechanisms and knowledge-sharing arrangements to improve different aspects of disaster risk management, such as multi-hazard assessment, disaster preparedness and early warnings and responses to disasters,

Recognizing also the importance of institutional and technical capacity development in disaster information management in the countries and organizations of the region and in achieving the objectives and expected results of disaster risk reduction and management more effectively,

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[1] General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex.

[2] See A/CONF.224/PC(I)/11.

[3] General Assembly resolution 69/283, annex II.

Expressing appreciation to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran for its generous offer to host the Centre and to bear its institutional, programmatic and operational costs for five years, up to 50 million United States dollars,

Recognizing that the main objective of the Centre would be to reduce the risks, losses and damages resulting from natural hazards by developing the capacities and capabilities of the countries and organizations of the region and strengthening regional cooperation on information-sharing and management of disaster risk reduction, and that the Centre would commence its functions and programmes with a focus on the more vulnerable subregions of Asia and the Pacific,

Taking note of the report on the evaluation pursuant to resolution 67/4 on the establishment of the Centre[4] and the evaluation undertaken by an independent evaluation team,[5] which concluded that there was a need to establish a regional centre to support vulnerable member States in bridging their disaster information management gaps and which recognized the significant steps made by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran in laying the foundations for the Centre's operations,

1. *Endorses* the recommendations contained in the above-mentioned evaluation;[4,5]

2. *Decides* to establish the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management as a regional institution of the Commission, which will contribute to the programme of work of the Commission in the area of information and communications technology and disaster risk reduction, while being funded through voluntary contributions from the host Government, including up to a limit of 50 million United States dollars during its first five years of operations;

3. *Adopts* the statute of the Centre, the text of which is annexed to the present resolution, as the basis for its operations;

4. *Encourages* the United Nations and other international organizations and agencies, as well as non-governmental organizations in the relevant fields, to provide support to the Centre and cooperate in achieving its objectives and the implementation of its work programme;

5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(*a*) To take all the necessary measures to ensure that the Centre is established promptly, including the conclusion of a headquarters agreement between the host country and the United Nations;

(*b*) To report on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution to the Commission at its seventy-second session;

6. *Decides* to assess the performance of the Centre, on the basis of the findings of an independent, comprehensive review at its seventy-sixth session, and to determine continuation of operations of the Centre as a regional institution of the Commission thereafter.

[4] See E/ESCAP/71/34.

[5] See E/ESCAP/71/INF/6.

Annex to resolution 71/11

Statute of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management

Establishment

1. The Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management (hereinafter "the Centre") is established on 29 May 2015 and accorded the legal status of a subsidiary body of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (hereinafter "the Commission") pursuant to Commission resolution 71/11 of the same date under the terms of the present statute.

2. Participation in capacity development activities of the Centre is open to all members and associate members of the Commission.

3. The Centre has the status of a subsidiary body of the Commission.

Objectives

4. To reduce human losses and material damages and the negative impact of natural hazards through enhancement of disaster information management in the Asia-Pacific region.

5. To strengthen the capabilities and capacities of countries and regional organizations in the fields of disaster information management and disaster risk reduction and implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030[6] and the evolving post-2015 development agenda.

6. To contribute to the enhancement of regional cooperation and coordination among countries and organizations in the region in the field of disaster information management aiming at socioeconomic development of nations and achieving internationally agreed development goals, particularly those related to the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 and the evolving post-2015 development agenda.

Functions

7. To provide disaster information management services to member States and national and regional institutions in the fields of disaster prevention and risk reduction, preparedness, response and recovery with a focus on disaster monitoring and early warning.

8. To provide technical and advisory support and services on disaster information policies, strategies and systems to member States and organizations in the region.

9. To facilitate access to regional and global disaster information and data sources through the creation of appropriate standards, frameworks and mechanisms and development of regional programmes, such as the establishment of a regional disaster database.

10. To develop the capacities of developing countries and regional organizations to transform the regional and global disaster data and information to applicable outcomes and products at the national and local levels by strengthening and mobilizing the required resources and benefiting from all available possibilities and initiatives, such as public-private partnerships.

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[6] General Assembly resolution 69/283, annex II.

11. To create and promote complementary cooperation among subregional disaster management centres and mechanisms in the Asia-Pacific region to exchange disaster data, information and knowledge by filling the existing gaps and by creating appropriate regional cooperation frameworks and protocols, such as the establishment of a regional disaster information management network with a focus on multi-hazard disaster monitoring and early warning.

12. To develop disaster information management tools and mechanisms, such as publications and virtual networks.

13. To act as a regional platform for disaster information for exchange of expertise, experiences and knowledge and to provide technical services and support to member States and disaster management institutions in the various fields of disaster management and risk reduction by benefiting from other available programmes and initiatives, such as North-South and South-South cooperation, and other regional organizations and Commission institutions.

14. To facilitate or conduct surveys and research and to provide specialized training services on new tools, techniques and standards to improve disaster information management and to fill the existing gaps in disaster information supply chains at the national and regional levels.

15. To facilitate or conduct specialized surveys on the assessment of needs and capacities, challenges and opportunities in the area of disaster information management to support disaster management policymakers and managers at the national and regional levels when and where required.

16. To facilitate or conduct specialized studies and provide scientific and applied services in the development of disaster risk reduction measures and programmes and implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 and the evolving post-2015 development agenda.

Products and services

17. Capacity development in disaster information management: training and technical support.

18. Information support and analytical works on hazard, vulnerability, exposure and risk assessment at the regional and subregional levels.

19. Communications and publications:

- Development of and support to regional and subregional disaster information networks
- Supporting local and national capacity development initiatives and programmes in disaster information management
- Providing information services for disaster risk management priorities

Scope

20. The Centre is to commence its activities with a focus on the more vulnerable subregions of Asia and the Pacific, including South-East Asia, South and South-West Asia as well as North and Central Asia, in the first phase of its operations owing to the priority of these subregions in disaster risk reduction and management cooperation, and may eventually cover all the Asia-Pacific region.

21. The Centre is to apply a multi-hazard approach in its planning and activities with a focus on earthquakes, tsunamis, floods, cyclones/typhoons and drought as the main hazards of the region.

22. The Centre is to include all phases and sectors of disaster management and risk reduction before, during and after the occurrence of disasters.

23. The focus of the programmes and activities of the Centre is:

(*a*) To provide capacity development in the area of disaster information management;

(*b*) To provide technical assistance and supplementary information services during major disasters that require regional and international assistance through promotion of complementary cooperation with other relevant organizations and institutions.

Status and organization

24. The Centre shall have a Governing Council (hereinafter "the Council"), a Director and staff. The Commission shall keep separate accounts for the Centre.

25. The Centre is located in Tehran, in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

26. The activities of the Centre shall be in line with relevant policy decisions adopted by the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission. The Centre shall be subject to the financial and staff regulations and rules of the United Nations and the applicable administrative instructions.

Governing Council

27. The Centre shall have a Governing Council consisting of a representative designated by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and eight representatives nominated by other members and associate members of the Commission. The members and associate members to be elected by the Commission shall be elected for a period of three years but shall be eligible for re-election. The Executive Secretary of the Commission or his or her representative shall attend meetings of the Council.

28. The Director of the Centre shall serve as Secretary of the Council.

29. Representatives of (*a*) States that are not members of the Council; (*b*) United Nations bodies and specialized and related agencies; and (*c*) such other organizations as the Council may deem appropriate, as well as experts in fields of interest to the Council, may be invited by the Executive Secretary to attend meetings of the Council.

30. The Council shall meet at least once a year and shall adopt its own rules of procedure. Sessions of the Council shall be convened by the Executive Secretary of the Commission, who may propose special sessions of the Council at his or her own initiative and shall convene special sessions at the request of a majority of Council members.

31. A quorum for meetings of the Council shall be a majority of its members.

32. The nine representatives constituting the Council, under paragraph 27 of the present statute, shall have one vote each. Decisions and recommendations of the Council shall be made by consensus or, when this is not possible, by a majority of the members present and voting.

33. The Council shall, at each regular session, elect a Chairperson and a Vice-Chairperson, who shall hold office until the next regular session of the Council. The Chairperson or, in his or her absence, the Vice-Chairperson shall preside at meetings of the Council. If the Chairperson is unable to serve for the full term for which he or she has been elected, the Vice-Chairperson shall act as Chairperson for the remainder of that term.

34. The Council shall review the administrative and financial status of the Centre and the implementation of its programme of work. The Executive Secretary of the Commission shall submit an annual report, as adopted by the Council, to the Commission at its annual sessions.

35. The Council shall review and endorse annual and long-term workplans consistent with the programme of work.

Director and staff

36. The Centre shall have a Director and staff, who shall be Commission staff members appointed under the appropriate United Nations regulations, rules and administrative instructions. The Council shall be invited to nominate candidates for the position of Director, once the vacancy is announced, and provide advice, as appropriate. Other members and associate members of the Commission may also submit nominations for the post. All appointments shall be for a fixed duration and shall be limited to service with the Centre.

37. The Director shall be responsible to the Executive Secretary of the Commission for the administration of the Centre, the preparation of annual and long-term workplans and the implementation of the programme of work.

Resources of the Centre

38. All members and associate members of the Commission should be encouraged to make a regular annual contribution to the operations of the Centre. The United Nations shall administer a joint contribution trust fund for the Centre, in which these contributions shall be deposited and utilized solely for the activities of the Centre, subject to paragraph 40 of the present statute.

39. United Nations bodies and specialized agencies and other entities should also be encouraged to make voluntary contributions to the operations of the Centre. The United Nations shall maintain separate trust funds for voluntary contributions for technical cooperation projects or other extraordinary voluntary contributions for activities of the Centre.

40. The financial resources of the Centre shall be administered in accordance with the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations.[7]

Amendments

41. Amendments to the present statute shall be adopted by means of a resolution of the Commission.

[7] ST/SGB/2013/4.

Matters not covered by the present statute

42. In the event of any procedural matter arising that is not covered by the present statute or rules of procedure adopted by the Council under paragraph 30 of the present statute, the pertinent part of the rules of procedure of the Commission shall apply.

Entry into force

43. The present statute shall enter into force on the date of its adoption by the Commission.